

# Capt. Zachary Taylor's Letter to Gen. Harrison

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The best account of what happened at Fort Harrison during September of 1812 is contained in a letter from Capt. Zachary Taylor, commanding Fort Harrison, Indiana Territory, to Gen. William Henry Harrison. This letter is dated Sept. 10, 1812.

"Dear Sir—On Thursday evening, the 3rd instant, after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here) were making hay, about 400 yards distant from the fort. I was immediately impressed with an idea that they were killed by the

Indians, as the Miamis or Weas had that day informed me that the Prophet's party would soon be here for the purpose of commencing hostilities, and that they had been directed to leave this place

which we were about to do. I did not think it prudent to send out at that late hour of the night to see what had become of them; and their not coming convinced me that I was right in my conjecture.



Dorothy J. Clark

"I waited until 8 o'clock next morning when I sent out a corporal with a small party to find them, if it could be done without running too much risk of being drawn into an ambush. He soon sent back to inform me that he had found them both killed and wished to know my further orders. I sent the cart and oxen, had them brought in and buried; they had been shot with two balls, scalped and cut in the most shocking manner. Late in the evening of the 4th inst. old Joseph Lenar and between 30 and 40 Indians arrived from the Prophet's town, with a white flag; among whom were about 10 women, and the men were composed of the chiefs of the different tribes that compose the Prophet's party. A Shawanoe man, that spoke good English, informed me that old Lenar intended to speak to me next morning, and try to get something to eat. At retreat beating I examined the men's arms and found them all in good order and completed their cartridges to 16 rounds per man.

## Inadequate Forces.

"As I had not been able to mount a guard of more than six privates and two non-commissioned officers, for some time past, and sometimes part of them every other day from the unhealthiness of the company, I had not conceived my force adequate to the defense of this post should it be vigorously attacked, for some time past. As I had just recovered from a very severe attack of the fever, I was not able to be up much through the night.

After tattoo, I cautioned the guard to be vigilant and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers, as the sentinels could not see every part of the garrison, to walk around on the inside during the whole night to prevent the Indians taking advantage of us provided they had any intention of attacking us. About 11 o'clock I was awakened by the firing of one of the sentinels. I sprang up, run out and ordered the men to their posts, when my orderly sergeant (who had charge of the upper blockhouse) called out that the Indians had fired the lower blockhouse, which contained the property of the contractor which was deposited in the lower part, the upper having been assigned to a corporal and ten privates as an alarm post. The guns had begun to fire pretty smartly from

both sides. I directed the buckets to be got ready and water brought from the well and the fire extinguished immediately, as it was perceivable at that time. But from debility or some other cause, the men were very slow in executing my orders.

"The word fire seemed to throw the whole of them in confusion, and by the time they had got the water and broken open the door the fire had unfortunately communicated to a quantity of whiskey (the stock having licked several holes through the lower part of the building after the salt that was stored there through which they had introduced the fire without being discovered, as the night was very dark), and in spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment it ascended to the roof and baffled every effort we could make to extinguish it. As that blockhouse adjoined the barracks that made part of the fortifications most of the men immediately gave themselves up for lost, and I had the greatest difficulty in getting my orders executed; and, sir, what from the raging of the fire—the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians—the cries of nine women and children (a part soldiers' and a part citizens' wives, who had taken shelter in the Fort)—and the desponding of so many of the men, which was worse than all—I can assure you that my feelings were very unpleasant—and indeed there were not more than ten or fifteen men able to do a great

deal, the others being either sick or convalescent—and to add to our other misfortunes, two of the stoutest men in the fort, and that I had every confidence in, jumped the picket and left us.

"But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me. I saw that by throwing off part of the roof that joined the blockhouse that was on fire, and keeping the end perfectly wet, the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of eighteen or twenty feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed; and that a temporary breastwork might be erected to prevent their even entering there. I convinced the men that this could be accomplished, and it appeared to inspire them with new life, and never did men act with more firmness or desperation.

## New Confidence.

"Those that were able (while the others kept up a constant fire from the other blockhouse and the two bastions) mounted the roofs of the houses, with Dr. Clark at their head (who acted with the greatest firmness and presence of mind the whole time the attack lasted, which was seven hours) under a shower of bullets, and in less than a moment threw off as much of the roof as was necessary. This was done only with the loss of one man and two wounded, and I am in hopes neither of them dangerous. The man that was killed was a little deranged, and did not get off the house as soon as directed, or he would not

have been hurt; and, although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire against them, the men used such exertion that they kept it under and before day raised a temporary breastwork as high as a man's head, although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and innumerable quantity of arrows during the whole time the attack lasted, in every part of the parade. I had but one other man killed, nor any other wounded inside the fort and he lost his life by being too anxious. He got into one of the galleys on the bastions and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down in an instant he was shot dead.

"One of the men that jumped the pickets returned an hour before day, and running up towards the gate begged for God's sake for it to be opened. I suspected it to be a stratagem of the Indians to get in, as I did not recollect his voice. I directed the men in the bastion, where I happened to be, to shoot him let him be who he would, but fortunately he ran up to the other bastion, where they knew his voice, and Dr. Clark directed him to lie close to the pickets behind an empty barrel that happened to be there, and at daylight I had him let in. His arm was broke in a most shocking manner, which he says was done by the Indians which I suppose was the cause of his returning. I think it probable that he will not recover. The other they caught about 130 yards from the garrison and cut him all to pieces. After keeping up a constant fire until six o'clock the next morning, which we began to return with some effect after daylight, they removed out of the reach of our guns. A party of them drove up the horses that belonged to the citizens here, and as they could not herd them very rapidly shot the whole of them in our sight, as well as a number of their hogs. They drove off the whole of the cattle, which amounted to sixty-five head, as well as the public oxen. I had the vacancy filled up before night (which was made by the burning of the blockhouse) with a strong row of pickets, which I got by pulling down the guard house. We lost the whole of our provisions but must make out to live upon green corn until we can get a supply, which I am in hopes will not be long. I believe the whole of the Miamies or Weas were among the Prophet's party, as one chief gave his orders in that language which resembled Stone Easter's voice, and I believe Negro Legs was there likewise. A Frenchman here understands their different languages, and several of the Miamies or Weas that have been here frequently were recognized by the Frenchman and soldiers next morning.

## Indians Suffered, Too.

"The Indians suffered smartly, but were so numerous as to take off all that were shot. They continued with us until the next

morning, but made no further attempt on the Fort, nor have we seen anything more of them since. I have delayed informing you of my situation, as I did not like to weaken the garrison, and I looked for some person from Vincennes, and none of my men were acquainted with the woods, and therefore I would either have to take the river or the road, which I was fearful was guarded by small parties of Indians that would not dare attack a party of rangers that was on a scout; but



being disappointed, I have at length determined to send a couple of my men by water and in hope that they will arrive safe. I think it would be best to send the provisions under a pretty strong escort, as the Indians may attempt to prevent their coming. If you carry on an expedition against the Prophet this fall, you ought to be well provided with everything, as you may calculate on having every inch of ground disputed between this and there that they can defend with advantage. Wishing, &c. (signed) Z. Taylor . . . to His Excellency Governor Harrison."



# History You Never Knew, Told In Old Letters At Library

Anna Bowles Wiley.

The Fairbanks Memorial Library constantly receiving unusual contributions and gifts from men and women who appreciate the storehouse of memoranda, fine historic records, art treasures and books of value. Just recently William C. Weaks of North Tenth street, who is collector of genealogies, made a gift to the room of genealogy, which has become a valuable record room, some letters written by a relative in Nashville, Tenn., to his brother in Ireland.

They were in a book in the library at Nashville, Mr. Weaks had them copied and one of these copies is now on file at the local library. James S. Carr, Esq., a member of the Wilmington bar, formerly of Duplin county, compiled the letters. They are unusually interesting, written from those early American days, and contain much historic reference which probably could not be found elsewhere.

The letters were given to the public because the author believed the public will find something of historical interest, which unless recorded while opportunity offers itself, may be irretrievably lost. The Dickson family of which William Dickson, the writer of the letters, was a member was born in England about 1607. The parent, Simon, was a stern English Puritan, and an ardent adherent to Oliver Cromwell. He served faithfully as an officer in the Parliamentary army during the fierce struggle between the Parliament and the king. After the revolution he received a grant of 400 acres of land in the county of Down, Ireland.

Here he settled and had numerous children. At the restoration of Charles II, the land grants of the Cromwellian administration were annulled, and Simon Dickson became a tenant on the same land he had owned.

In 1704, John Dickson, son of the great grandson of Simon, came to America, and he died in Duplin, North Carolina, in December of 1774, just at the beginning of the revolutionary war.

## Regular In Colonials.

His son, William, the writer of the letters, was the foremost man in the county as leader of civil affairs, while his compatriot, Colonel James Kenan, was at the head of military operations. William entered the army as a regular militiaman and served during the entire war.

He was limited as to educational advantages, having had but three months' schooling. His comments on the American form of government, then an untried theory, in his letter of 1790, gives his reasons why North Carolina adopted a federal constitution.

His predictions that the southern states would not receive equal benefit in the government with the northern states and that the north would eventually demand the emancipation of slavery, were ideas worthy of a statesman, yet they sound in conception in no ordinary mind. This was written by him even years before the Civil War.

Mr. Dickson was delegate to the first provincial congress held in 1774 and to the second in 1775 to the third and fourth when in 1776 they formed the first North Carolina constitution.

He represented Duplin in the House of Commons in 1795 and he concealed the records of the county in an iron pot in Goshen swamp to prevent their destruction by the British when the Cornwallis army came through the county on its way from Wilmington to Virginia.

The letters were written to his cousin, Rev. Robert Dickson, a Presbyterian minister in Narrow Water, near Newry, Ireland. The letters are lengthy and will be published from time to time, and the first one was written immediately following the Revolutionary War. It ran in part as follows:

"Dear Cousin Robert—About two months ago I received a very long letter from you, dated in Sept. 1783, which afforded me much pleasure and satisfaction in the perusal, as it contained a historical account of the political proceedings of the Irish nation during the continuance of the late American war. I much admire and applaud the determined resolution of the volunteers in claiming a redress of public national grievances and I understand by that letter that you wrote me in May, 1783, by the ship Congress, Capt. Chenan, bound for Philadelphia, that letter never came to hand.

## Journey To Virginia.

"Your friend and relative, Mr. Josie, who came over with Joseph, stayed in Virginia; he had the offer of a good school and did not come to Carolina. In both your letters which I have received you requested that I give you some account of the present circumstances and situation of our families since the war, also the present state of our civil government; also concerning religious matters and how ministers were supported in this country, and also concerning the price of plantations and whether any new settlements were about to be made on the western waters over the Appalachian mountains, etc.

"Dear cousin, in answer to these requests I wrote you a very long letter about a month ago which was a few days after the arrival of my cousin Joseph.

"That letter I sent at random by a person going to Virginia, where, I was informed there was a vessel which would sail in about three weeks for Belfast. That letter is very long, but written in such haste that it will appear a perfect scrawl, the person who carried it, waiting with impatience while I wrote. I had not the opportunity to review or correct it. However, if it ever comes to hand I make no doubt but you'll be able to digest its contents.

"In it you'll find I have attempted to give you some account of our civil government and mode of legislation, etc. Also of the different sects of religious people most prevalent amongst us in the lower counties of this state, and that the Presbyterian settlements are chiefly with upper counties of the state, where there are many large and able congregations and some of them are frequently vacant.

"I also gave you my opinion that a good sound preacher of a good moral character scarcely ever wanted good encouragement. I also wrote you concerning the price of lands and plantations in this part of the country.

"I also in that letter began an historical account of the war far as concerned us and our families in the vicinity of Carolina which I have found from the commencement of the war down to the battle of Guilford in North Carolina, which happened in the spring of the year 1781, from which Lord Cornwallis returned to Wilmington to recruit and repair his damages, etc.

Before he could proceed to Virginia, General Greene marched his army to South Carolina to dispute the dominion of the state with Lord Rawdon, who then commanded the garrison at Camden; "I concluded my last letter in which you'll find none of our families concerned, except my oldest brother, Michale, who had his share of the situations. The last account I had from him he was about moving his family to Georgia."

"Having thus brought the war to our door, I shall now give you some account of its operation here and how much it affects us and our families."

## Arrive At Cape Fear.

"About the 25th of January, 1781, Major Craig arrived in the Cape Fear River, landed in Wilmington with about 450 veteran troops with which he garrisoned the town and detached a party up the North, East River to the great bridge about 12 miles above the town, and then demolished the bridge, seized and burned some public store ships, and their contents, which had been run up the river for safety, and also destroyed some private property and returned to the town."

"Major Craig immediately fortified the garrison. The militia of three counties were then immediately ordered down to take post at the bridge, and that pass was fortified by us in the country. We had been there about three weeks with about 700 militia when Major Craig marched out upon us in the night with his main force and some field pieces, surprised and dispersed our plique guard and displayed his artillery across the river upon our dirt works, but without any effect."

"The enemy, finding their attempt entirely fruitless, after staying and viewing us across the river for two days, returned in the night to Wilmington."

"About two weeks after this we received intelligence from Guilford county in the upper part of the state, that a general engagement had ensued between Lord Cornwallis and General Greene; there the conflict was long and obstinate and the victory had been in favor of the Americans had it not been for misconduct of the North Carolina militia, who broke and left our part of the line exposed, which the enemy seeing, and being about to make use of the advantage."

REFERENCE  
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#### Greene's Retreat.

"General Greene ordered a retreat and brought off the whole without any confusion. The enemy remained upon the ground. General Greene finding his troops still in high spirits and not so much diminished as might be expected, made all the necessary preparations to attack the enemy the next day, but was disappointed by Cornwallis precipitately decamping in the night."

"He carried off some of his wounded and left about two hundred of his wounded at the place of action with an officer and two surgeons whom he recommended to

the compassion and humanity of the American general."

"Cornwallis made his retreat good to Wilmington and General Greene, after pursuing him two days without any prospect of coming up with him, turned his course and marched into South Carolina, where I shall leave him for the present. Cornwallis arrived at Wilmington, and, General Greene being gone to South Carolina seemed to strike terror on our militia then at their post."

"General Lillington, who then commanded the post at the great bridge, ordered our retreat from that to Kinston on the Neuse river, about 30 miles above Newbern, where on the 28th of April, he discharged all the militia except one company to guard the artillery and stores. The militia thus discharged, we had not the name of an army in North Carolina."

#### After Cornwallis.

"Every man was left to look to himself. The next day after being discharged we returned home. Cornwallis' army was then in the middle of our county, encamped at my brother Robert Dickson's plantation. The whole country was struck with terror, almost every man quit his habitation and fled, leaving his family and property to the mercy of merciless enemies."

"Horses, cattle, and sheep and every kind of stock were driven off from every plantation, corn and forage taken for supply of the army

and no compensation given, houses plundered and robbed, chests, trunks, etc., broken open and women and children's clothes, etc., as well as men's wearing apparel and every kind of household furniture taken away."

"The outrages were committed by a train of loyal refugees, as they termed themselves, whose business it was to follow the camps and under the protection of the army enrich themselves on the plunder they took from the distressed by another swarm of beings (not better than harpies)."

"These were women who followed the army in the character of officer's and soldier's wives. They were generally considered by the inhabitants to be more insolent than the soldiers. They were generally mounted on the best horses and side saddles, dressed in the finest and best clothes that could be taken from the inhabitants as the army marched through the county."

"Tories began to assemble and hold councils in every part of the state, and thinking the country already conquered, because the enemy had gone through us without being checked, they were audacious enough to apprehend and take several of our principal leading men prisoners and carry them down to Wilmington and deliver them to the guards."

"There were numbers of our good citizens thus betrayed, perished on board prison ship and in their power. This so alarmed the inhabitants that none of us dared to sleep in our houses or beds at night for fear of being surprised by those blood-suckers and carried off to certain destruction."

"In the meantime, the governor of the state and several others of the first character, were surprised in this manner, by some who had been personally acquainted with him, and carried and delivered to the guards at Wilmington, notwithstanding the attempt of sundry parties of the militia to rescue him."

"Matters being thus in confusion, there was no subordination amongst



(duplicate) Nashville 13<sup>th</sup> November 1806  
Sir,

By the last post I received orders from the Honorable the Secy. of War to return and take command at Fort Point. There has been but one Officer at that post for some time past, Lieutenant Benson Smith of the Artillery, and his resignation is accepted and takes place on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, it is therefore necessary for me to be there as soon as possible that he may be relieved. —

Captain Gales is to have that Commission, he is now recruiting at Carlisle in Pennsylvania, and when he may join is uncertain, there is a second Lieutenant appointed but he is with Captain Gales and will march with him. —

There is a new Garrison ordered to be built on the St. Joseph River, at the Mouth of the highway are about forty miles by land, and sixty by water below the Point. The Company are all there except a small Guard left at the Point to take charge of the Public Stores, they are huddled for the winter, and preparing to commence building the Works — it will be about two hundred and fifty feet square and will be eligibly situated, the Agency and Factory are to be removed there in a short time, the



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Captain Gale is to leave Fort Sumner,  
he is now recruiting at Fort in Virginia,  
and when he may join is uncertain, there is a  
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Gale and will march with him. —

There is a new Garrison ordered to be built  
on the San Pedro River, at the mouth of M. J. River  
on about forty miles by land, and sixty by sea.  
There is to be a Point. — The Garrison are all  
the except a small Guard left at the Point —  
to take charge of the Public Store, they are  
hunted for the winter, and preparing to come.

—men building the Works — it will be about  
two hundred and fifty feet square and will be  
slightly elevated; the Agency and Factory are  
to be Garrisoned there for a short time, the  
buildings for them being nearly finished. —

Lieutenant Russell is now there and is  
commanding.



Extremely anxious to proceed on to join his company.  
We meet with no success in the recruiting service <sup>having</sup>  
(except in Kentucky) not enlisted one man in  
October - There is now here about twenty recruits  
in addition to what will complete the company  
at the Point -

There is only eight suits of clothing on  
hand therefore not a sufficient supply to furnish  
all the recruits we now have with the winter  
clothing. - I have also reason to apprehend that  
several of them will desert <sup>from</sup> those circumstances,  
have concluded to send Lieutenant Russell with  
all the recruits now here, down to Fort Adams,  
there to report himself and wait for further orders.

I hope this proceeding will meet the approbation  
of the General - as I have done what I conceived  
would be of most benefit to the service at  
this time. -

I am with much respect  
in  
your very obedient  
servant  
Wm. Maclellan  
Major & Adjutant

Col. M. H. Cushing  
1862



Major's army of Occupation  
Camp near Monterey Mexico  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 1847

I certify that William Agnew  
who I understand now resides  
in the State of Illinois, served in  
my company in 1812 & 13 & was  
with me at Fort Harrison  
when attacked by the Indians  
in September of the first named  
year, where he acted very ga:  
llantly & was severely wound:  
ed. I can also say with much  
pleasure he was at that time  
a young man of excellent cha:  
racter, & discharged his duty as  
Soldier & Citizen with credit  
to himself, & advantageously so  
to the Country -

J. Daylor, Major, Genl,  
U. S. Army

Allen M. Groom - great grandson of above William Allen Agnew  
6037 N. Wilson  
Fresno CA 93704

May 26, 1998

over



William Allen Agnew's son was Allen Solomon Agnew  
↓  
(1855-1922)

Marshall Albert Agnew (c.1895- c.1975) is Allen's father



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FIRST EDITIONS

ARTHUR PFORZHEIMER  
26 EAST 56TH STREET  
New York City

MANUSCRIPTS  
DRAWINGS

December 17 1942

Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library  
Terre Haute  
Indiana

Dear Sirs,

We enclose the description of four letters that have to do with the defence of Fort Harrison (now Terre Haute), Indiana, in August and September 1812, by Captain Zachary Taylor, later President. Two of the letters are written by Taylor himself to William Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory. The price of the lot is \$ 300.00.

As we are reserving this item until you have a chance to consider it, we would esteem it a favor if you would indicate on the enclosed card whether you are interested or not. With thanks for your attention, we are,

Very truly yours,

*Arthur Pforzheimer*



RARE BOOKS  
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26 EAST 56TH STREET

*New York City*

MANUSCRIPTS  
DRAWINGS

ZACHARY TAYLOR

Letters about the defence of Fort Harrison (now Terre Haute), Indiana  
August - September 1812

For his distinguished services in defence of the Fort, Taylor, then a captain, received his first promotion - to brevet major. Thus began a career that ended in 1850 in the White House.

- (a) Taylor (Zachary) A L S 2 1/2 pp folio dated Fort Harrison, 8th August 1812. Addressed in Taylor's hand to "His Excy. Governor Harrison or in his absence to Genl Gibson, Vincennes".

Is informed that Tecumseh is preparing a considerable force to strike an important blow against the whites; that it is probable that his first objective will be Fort Harrison or Vincennes; that the Prophet has held a council with the chiefs of different tribes; speaks of provisions for peaceful Indians; etc. Signed "Z. Taylor, Capt. Commanding".

- (b) Taylor (Zachary) A L S 2pp 4to dated Fort Harrison September the 13th 1812. Addressed in Taylor's hand to "His Excoy. William Henry Harrison, Gov of Indiana Territory, Vincennes. pr Sergt. Blundell".

Speaks of the attack by Indians on the Fort. Has tried to send out two men with a message by water. The Indians have guarded the river so closely, building fires, etc, that they were obliged to return. His situation compels him again to make an attempt by land and he is sending his orderly sergeant with another man that night, in spite of the difficulties they will have to encounter.

- (c) Copy by Gen John Gibson, Acting Governor of Indian Territory, of his letter to Gen William Henry Harrison, Governor, dated Vincennes, September 12, 1812. 3 pp 4to.

Speaks of attempts of scouting parties to penetrate to Fort Harrison earlier in the month. Their opinion is that the Fort still holds out. Tells of the gathering of troops and the movements of Generals Russell, Winlock, and Hopkins. Russell has taken command of all troops at Vincennes and expects to move for Fort Harrison on that day (Sep 12th).

- (d)



(d) Richardson (Thomas H - 1st Lt. Commanding) L S 1 1/2 pp 4to  
dated Fort Knox, August 12, 1812. Addressed to Genl. John  
Gibson, Vincennes.

Sends a letter from Mr McCall of Fort Harrison telling of its  
"feeble situation" etc. Only 55 men of whom 13 are on the  
sick report. Asks for early relief to be sent. Speaks of  
information received from Indians. Excuses his presumption  
in making his request and would not have "done so was it not  
for the friendship I have for Capt. Taylor".

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Monthly Return  
of Troops at  
Fort Mifflin  
March 1816



Monthly Return  
of Troops at Fort Mifflin  
March 1816

Monthly Return of  
a Company of Infantry  
under the command  
of Major John H. Brown  
3rd Infantry for the  
Month of March 1816  
Fort Mifflin



Wm. out of the 1st  
2nd. 1800. a 6  
For 6 years  
March 1816



Monthly Return of  
Books in 1st Army  
March 1816

Monthly Return of  
a company of Infantry  
under the command  
of Brig. Major Skinner  
3rd Infantry for the  
Month of March 1816  
1st Army.



Monthly Return of  
Troops at Fort Knapp  
March 1816



We certify the above  
is correct as  
the 6th Regt  
March 1816

Monthly Return of  
a Company of Infantry  
Under the command  
of Brig. & Major General  
3rd Infantry for the  
Month of March 1816  
Fort Knapp



0663

An Invoice of Arms, Public Stores &c, on hand  
at Fort Adams the 1<sup>st</sup> Decr. 1806.

1 Draft, 9. Pounder  
1 Iron. 6. 110.  
1 Do. 4. 110. -  
10. Cannon Carriages  
1 Large Box Iron ware &c.  
1 Do. Do. Dry by Clothing, not known  
What Comp'y it belongs  
1 Large Chest, Capt. Hadderts. Comp. 4 Clothing  
2 Boxes Window Glass.  
1 Do. Musket Cartridges  
1 Do. Pistol Do.  
1 Do. 15 lbs -  
1 Small Chest, Carpenter Tools.  
1 Add. 1 Box. 2 Sinesco. 4 Barrels, Capt. R.  
Wifely Company Clothing, which was arrived  
since Capt. Wilkinson left this.

42

Encl: Kingsbury, Jacob (Comm.)  
Dec. 1, 1806

G. J. Fovier Lieut.  
& Acting Military Agt.



REFERENCE  
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Headquarters Detroit  
10th May 1816

Sir,

Having been informed by Major Morgan that he has marched out of the Department by order of Genl Jackson and that in consequence Major Morgan thought it his duty to order you to occupy with your command the fort he had left. You will continue (?) to make fort Harrison your station and consider yourself commandant thereof. Such of the publick property that without great expense be removed from fort Knox to fort Harrison you will cause to be removed and placed in as much security from depradation & from the weather as your (stores?) will admit. If the quantity of small arms is very great you will communicate with the office of the Ordnance Department ( ) you to learn if any arrangements have been made by his Department for the removal of the arms and supplies-- ordnance stores. Take care however to have your command as well furnished as possible with the (means?) of defense and always be on your guard against the Indians never permitting them to take any undue liberties and punish promptly any insult they may offer-- it is the best way to keep in good terms with them. You will at the same time prevent any person from abusing or maltreating the Indians considering yourself as their protector in all that regards their just rights and privileges.

You will be pleased to send me a sketch of the fort and ground in its vicinity stating the number the barracks will contain, the nature of the soil about the fort and the ( ? ) quality of the land near you. Also whether the position is well chosen, whether it be healthy and the quality of the water --- Be pleased also to give a statement of the different tribes of Indians in your neighborhood and the amount of Indian warriors in each tribe, also the state of the fort as to comfort and defense. And finally any information touching ( ) ( )

With respectful consideration

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most (obedient?)

( ) ( )

Major General

at

5 ( ) Dept.

Major Chunn

3rd Regt of Infantry

Commanding

Fort Harrison



Fort Harrison 21<sup>st</sup> Sep 1876

Major John T. Chism

relative to taking & keeping  
possession of the reservation  
at that place - post-custodian  
of the reservation

# 268

2 Inclosures

C-268(9)

Oct. 1876



Sir,

Fort Adams,  
25th August, 1866 -

I have received yours of August 2nd and 11th, I wrote you on the 11th of July by Captain Mitchell (and enclosed you a number of letters and my return for the Month of June - I have directed the Asst. M. Agent to furnish Lt Symmes with the articles necessary for his command - Ensign Reed is of the 1st Regiment and I have directed him to be reported and do duty in Captain McClange's company until it arrives at Narragansett - I shall leave this place early tomorrow morning agreeably to your orders with three companies and shall move with all possible expedition leaving Lt Mulford and Stoddard's company -



I sent a Detachment down to the Mouth of Red River to bring up two of the boats left by Sycamore Lord, the boat calculated on as a <sup>gun</sup> plain boat appears to be the contractor, consequently I cannot take her -

The Eight Inch Howitzer with much of her apparatus and much other stores as we have I will bring up with me in charge of St. Murray - The Troops are furnished with one Month's provisions - I ammunition but McClary's company have neither cartridge boxes or I think the Tent, Camp Kettle and Axe. have not arrived here never been consequently I shall move without them - General Withers has not arrived neither have I heard a word from



him since he wrote me that he  
 would be at Fort Adams on or  
 before the 20th of July, I am certain  
 that the Secretary at War informs  
 him at this place as there is a letter  
 from him to General Withers on regarding  
 the Fort Mifflin at this place to  
 forward it after the General to New  
 Orleans if he has left this place  
 I Lawrence goes on with Captain  
 Sorkwood - I forward my return  
 for the Month of July and a copy  
 of Captain M. C. Perry's Order -

Capt Sorkwood I am with respect  
 will give you a your most Obedt letter  
 large packet of  
 letters -

Yours truly  
 J. W. Thompson Lt Col  
 1st Regt Infantry  
 Colonel Embury -



General Land Office

10 Feb'y 1847

Sir

the letter

I have received of the Commandant at Fort Harrison addressed to the acting Secretary at War, dated 10<sup>th</sup> ulto, & covering a certificate that the Lands around the Fort had been occupied for military purposes previous to the location of Major Markle.

I believe Markle had located before the War Department did formally notify this office of the Reservation made for military purposes; nevertheless I refused to grant him a patent: under these circumstances it is desirable that any positive or discretionary order from the department, to occupy Lands near the fort, issued previous to Markle's location, should be in this office, for the purpose of shewing that the department had occupied the Land previous to



Markles location & that he has not a legal  
right to a patent.

I am very respectfully

Sir

John Graham Esq<sup>r</sup>

Acting Secretary

War Department

Smith Mings

your obedient servant



(Original letter in the National Archives. From photocopy obtained by Maxine Brown)

JOSIAH MEIGS TO JOHN GRAHAM ESQ. ACTING SECRETARY, WAR DEPARTMENT

(Page 1, cover for letter)

(Note beside address)

Mr. Davis will examine the letters from Major Chunn in relation to this subject.

General Land Office

John Graham Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Acting Secretary of War

Majr. Morgan 6 Jany 1816

C- 268 (9)

(Page 2)

General Land Office  
10 feby 1817

Sir

I have received the letter of the Commandant at Fort Harrison addressed to the acting Secretary at War, dated 10th ulto & covering a certificate that the lands around the Fort had been occupied for military purposes previous to the location of Major Markle.

I believe Markle had located before the War Department did formally notify this office of the reservation made for military purposes; nevertheless I refused to grant him a patent; under these circumstances it is desirable that any positive or discretionary order from the department to occupy Lands near the fort issued issued previous to Markles location should be in this office, for the purpose of showing that the department had occupied the land previous to

(Page 3)

Markles location and that he has not a legal right to a patent.

I am very respectfully

Sir

your obed servt

John Graham Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Acting Secretary  
War Department

Josiah Meigs

(Note by Maxine Brown- The cover is dated 6 Jany 1816, the letter is dated 10 Feby 1817. The cover might have been for another letter - not found among loose papers or the author forgot it was 1817)



(Original letter in the National Archives. From photocopy  
Obtained by Maxine Brown)

MAJOR JOHN T. CHUNN TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H CRAWFORD

(On front page)

Fort Harrison 21st Sept. 1916  
Major John T. Chunn  
relative to taking and keeping  
possession of the reservation  
at that place - plot inclosed  
of the reservation

#268  
2 inclosures  
C-268(9)  
Oct 1816

(On second page)

Fort Harrison 21st Sept 1816

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> William H. Crawford,  
Sir,

Pursuant to your  
instructions relative to the reserve of land  
at Fort Harrison, I herewith inclose to you  
the Plat of the Land reserved(?) Every  
thing, in a military point of view, has  
been taken into consideration.

When I took command of this post,  
I pointed out my limits for the use of  
the Garrison which was published in  
Garrison Orders, & subsequent to those orders  
Major Markle has located three Quarter  
Sections in front of the Garrison, which has  
since been taken into the reserve. I  
consider it important, in a military point  
of view, that those three Quarter sections  
referred to should be reserved, to prevent  
the erection of houses and Corn fields, which  
in case of a siege might afford shelter  
& subsistence to a large Indian force.

The principal part of the above

(Page 3)

three quarter-sections is now in corn---(?)  
would subsist an enemy in the event of---?)  
Siege for at least three months-----(?)  
of no other difficulty which might-----(?)  
excepting that of Markle's location:-  
Should the Government think proper to  
withhold the land from Major Markle,  
If(?) at a future day the value of the reserve  
will be immense - without it - it will not.

Maj. Markle informs me, he will not  
lift his Warranty, unless the Government  
will suffer him to lay them on a fraction  
of land called Terre Haute consisting  
of about 418 acres, lying two and an half  
miles below this place, & unquestionably  
the most valuable tract in the new  
purchase. From the instructions that I have  
already received, I feel myself  
authorized to keep possession of the land



until I hear further from your department.  
 I consider what I have done,  
 in every respect, conformable to the  
 instructions ~~thereto~~ fore received, as well as for  
 the benefit of the government, & will no  
 doubt meet your approbations.

(page 4) With Sentiments of the

highest respect,  
 I have the honor of subscribing  
 myself, Sir,  
 Your ob<sup>t</sup> Hble Ser(?)  
John T. Chunn  
 Brevet Maj. Inf  
 Comdg(?) Ft. Harrison

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
 William H. Crawford  
 Secretary of War  
 Washington

P.S. the fraction of torra Heau has been sold at  
 the Sale & I have been informed by the Commissioner  
 of the land office that Maj. Markle has  
 been Ordered to remove his Warranty on it to other  
 land when Markle arrived here he wanted to loc-  
 ate the fraction on which the fort stood after  
 being prevented by the register at Vincennes he  
 openly answered that he would invest the fort and  
 was determined to fight through all opposition  
 and have further understood that he has wrote  
 to the Government that they had been discussed  
 or false statements had been made to them  
 by me if it is the case I wish to be info-  
 rmed of it, he moreover threatens to bring  
 suit for the land in the federal Court  
 at Washington. Should you have any doubts  
 respecting the reserve I beg leave to inform  
 you to the first characters in this country  
 it is a speculative scheme in Markle  
 altogether ) and I further feel it my duty  
 to prevent the Government from being Speculated

(page 5)

on, but more especially by a Canna-  
 dian refugee with much respect  
 your obt Humble Servant

John T. Chunn  
Brevet Major Commg

The Honorable  
 Wm. H. Crawford

(On the folded side of this page)

Fort Harrison 21st Sept 1816  
 Major  
 John T. Chunn

(This same data appears at the beginning  
 of this transcript of of the letter)  
 relative to taking and keeping  
 possession of the reservation  
 at that place - plot inclosed  
 of the reservation.



Fort Harrison 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1816  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> William H. Crawford,

Sir,

Pursuant to your instructions relative to the reserve of Land, at Fort Harrison, I herewith inclose to you, the Plat of the Land reserved. Every thing, in a military point of view, has been taken into consideration.

When I took command of this Post, I pointed out my limits for the use of the Garrison which was published in Garrison Orders, & subsequent to those orders Major Martle has located three Quarter Sections in front of the Garrison, which has since been taken into the reserve. I consider it important, in a military point of view, that those three Quarter Sections referred to should be reserved, to prevent the erection of houses & Corn-fields, which in case of a siege might afford shelter & subsistence to a large Indian force.

The principal part of the above



these Quarter-sections is now in Cora-  
wouda submist an enemy in the event of  
Siege for at least three months. I  
of no other difficulty which might arise  
excepting that of Markle's location:—

Should the Government think proper to  
withhold the Land from Major Markle,  
at a future day, the value of the reserve  
will be immense—without it, it will not.

Major Markle informs me, he will not  
lift his Warrants, unless the Government  
will suffer him to lay them on a fraction  
of Land called Core-haut, consisting  
of about 416 acres, lying two and half  
miles below this place, & unquestionably  
the most valuable tract in the new  
purchase. From the instructions that I  
have already received, I feel myself  
authorized to keep possession of the Land  
until I hear further from your Depart-  
ment;— I consider what I have done,  
in every respect, conformable to the  
instructions heretofore received, as well, for  
the benefit of the Government, & will no  
doubt meet your approbation.

With sentiments of the



highest respect,

I have the honor of subscribing  
myself, Sir,

Yours ob<sup>ly</sup> Hble<sup>st</sup>

John T. Chum

Bruch May 2  
Com<sup>d</sup>g J. T. Harison

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>

William H. Crawford

Secretary of War  
Washington

P.S. the fraction of Thomas Beaw has been sold at  
the Sale & I have been informed by the Commission  
of the Land office that Messrs. Clarke has  
been ordered to remove his warranty on to other  
land when Clarke arrived here he wanted to lo-  
cate the fraction on which the post stood after  
being prevented by the Register at Vincennes he  
openly avowed that he would invest the post and  
was determined to fight through all opposition  
and have further understood that he has written  
to the Government that they had been deceived  
or false statements had been made to them  
by me if it is the case I wish to be infor-  
med of it he moreover threatens to bring  
suit for the land in the federal court  
at Washington. should you have any  
doubts respecting the matter I beg leave to refer  
you to the fact. Character in this country  
it is a Speculative scheme in Clarke's  
altogether and I further feel it my duty  
to prevent the Government from being speculated



an. but more especially by a European  
diarist referred with much respect  
your. Oct. 18th 1876

John T. Churns  
Agent Major Coming

The Hon. Mr.

Wm. H. Crawford

That discussion 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1876

Major John T. Churns

relative to taking the property  
possession of the reservation  
at that place. - Not enclosed  
of the reservation

# 265

2 Shilohville

C-2658(9)

Oct 1876



but more especially by a European  
refugee with much respect  
your. Oth. St. John's Ground

John T. Chum.  
Brunt Major Coming

The St. John's

Wm. H. Crawford

Test of opinion 21<sup>st</sup> Sep 1876

Major John T. Chum

relative to taking the  
possession of the reservation  
at that place - Petitioner  
of the reservation is

# 265

2 John's

C-268(9)

Oct 1876